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themselves, do not convey much meaning to his mind and it therefore is necessary to convert them into graphic form before our average voter really comprehends their significance.

It is with these truths in mind that Mr. Altmeyer has compiled the "Statistics of Municipal Finances," and he has succeeded well in the difficult task of setting forth many of the most fundamental facts in a way which the really interested citizen cannot fail to understand. The first and most difficult step in that direction has been the elimination from the record of the duplications arising from payments from one fund into another. The figures as presented show directly the net amounts of money which have been spent to support education, highways and bridges, charities and corrections, health, general government, etc. Furthermore, each of these items is compared with similar expenditures for an earlier year and the results are presented in graphic form, so that the citizen can see clearly which departments are mainly responsible for the increasing outlays. The report goes further and shows for the various cities of the state the corresponding expenditures for similar items, and then proceeds to reduce these expenditures to a per capita basis, so that the citizen in any place can accurately compare the outlays made by his own city with the corresponding outlays of neighboring municipalities. The receipts of the state and local governments are analyzed in similarly clear and simple manner. One can see at a glance the part played by local taxes and the share of state subsidies, special assessments, license fees, etc., in furnishing the revenues used by the city governments.

The whole report is characterized by simple statistics and lucid graphs portraying the most important statistical facts concerning Wisconsin finances. It constitutes, therefore, a handbook convenient not only for legislators and officials but also especially useful to every intelligent citizen and taxpayer of the state. A similar presentation for every other state and community in the nation seems to be the first preliminary to eliminating extravagance, waste and graft from our state and local governments. The whole report well illustrates one manner in which properly handled statistics may render great service to the cause of efficient government.

WILLFORD I. KING.

Spartanburg, S. C., Nov. 8, 1919.

Fifty Years of Canadian Progress, 1867 to 1917. By Ernest H. Godfrey, F. S. S. Reprinted from The Canada Year Book, 1918. 50 pp.

The author of this report is well known to readers of this QUARTERLY as the author of the Canadian section of the History of Statistics, published to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the American Statistical Association. Mr. Godfrey is editor of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and this report is a reprint from The Canada Year Book of 1918. Its purpose is, in the author's words, "to pass under statistical review the progress achieved by Canada during the 50 years of its existence as a federal Union."

The scope of the report is indicated by the following list of titles: Area and political boundaries; population and immigration; agriculture; live stock; dairying; forest products; fisheries; minerals; manufactures; trade, transportation, and communication; financial and social statistics. Some of these subjects have been dealt with much more thoroughly than others, and greater attention has been given to facts regarding the physical resources and products of the country than to data concerning the social condition and environment of the Canadian people. Thus, while a large part of the report is devoted to statistics on agriculture, dairying, forestry, fisheries, and mining, the discussion of public finance, immigration, literacy, and education is relatively brief, and no information whatever is given as to racial composition of population, size of families, incomes, racial characteristics of immigrants, or vital statistics. Considered as a record of national progress, the report appears, in a word, strong on the economic and weak on the social and demographic side.

The emphasis upon economic facts is apparently due, in part, to election on the part of the author and, in part, to the lack of suitable statistical material. We find, on referring to the author's chapter in the *History of Statistics*, already mentioned, that the basic records for educational and vital statistics are in the hands of the provincial, as distinguished from the Dominion, authorities, and it seems clear that the author has relied exclusively on official Dominion statistics. Granting that the facts assembled by the different provincial governments are not readily comparable, the question arises, in view of the importance to the national life of the conditions reflected in vital and educational statistics, whether an attempt should not have been made to piece together figures which would have served to indicate fundamental tendencies.

In manner and method of presentation, the report is excellent. The text is clear and effective, and the table forms adequately meet the requirements of tabular presentation. In the table on pages 32 and 33, several arithmetical errors have been noted—doubtless due to faulty type setting. Thus, the value of smelts caught and landed in connection with sea fisheries is given as \$2,107,555, while a subsequent column gives \$1,027,555 as the total value of smelts caught and landed. The four maps illustrating territorial growth are good in principle and in general design, but their execution is hardly satisfactory. Graphical representations of some of the more significant facts would have contributed to the effectiveness of the report, without adding appreciably to its volume.

The report affords inspiring reading. Coming to notice at the end of four years of the waste and havoc of war, it is more than ordinarily welcome. The report sets forth in definite, quantitative terms, the unexhausted resources and rapid development of one of the world's youngest and most vigorous countries; in almost every department of national life the record is seen to have been one of uninterrupted growth. Perhaps the highest praise that can be given to the author's statistical workmanship is to say that it is worthy of his theme.

EARLE CLARK.